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ABSTRACT

When macro blocks (MB0 to MB9) each of which has a variable length are input for one picture, null syncs (NULL1 to NULL5) each of which has a unit length are generated corresponding to the format of video data to be handled. Each null sync contains length information and a data portion. The length information represents 0. The data portion is filled with data [00]s. Corresponding to the length information, an overflow portion of a macro block is detected. The overflow portion is successively packed to macro blocks each of which is smaller than the unit length. Thus, each macro block is packed in the unit length. Since the length information of each null sync represents 0, the overflow portions are packed after the length information of each null sync. With null syncs, one format of video data can be matched with another format. In addition, with null syncs, overflow portions are packed. Thus, the record medium can be effectively used.

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